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## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bolivia

SUBJECT Decrease in PIR Membership

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DATE OF INFO

SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. It is reported that 8,639 members are now carried on the rolls of the Bolivian Partido Izquierda Revolucionario (PIR). Some 3,000 are listed as literate and about 5,000 as illiterate.
2. It has been reported from several sources that the PIR has lost in number of members and sympathizers in recent months. PIR records show that in the Department of Santa Cruz, for example, forty Party militants have resigned in recent months. Figures available for 1946 show that the PIR was thought to have 10,000 militants and 15,000 sympathizers at that time.
3. The decrease in the numerical strength of the PIR can be attributed to a considerable extent to the work of the Catholic Church. The Church's argument that Communism is godless was given added weight by the trial and sentence of Cardinal Mindszenty.
4. An important result of this decrease in the size of the party has been to make the PIR more Communist than ever, since the less ardent members and sympathizers are the ones who have renounced the party. Hence, the party discipline can be expected to improve, and the party should be able to mobilize effectively for demonstrations and the creation of civil disturbances. It is believed that the number of party sympathizers has decreased more proportionately than has the number of militants.
5. PIR records give the following figures:

Department	Number Enrolled
La Paz	2,320
Cochabamba	2,700
Oruro	630
Potosi	600
Santa Cruz	2,160
Beni	300
(Capital City of Trinidad - 267)	
Tarija	400
Pando	90
Chiquisaca	439

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 NO CHANGE in Class. ☐  
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Total 8,639

STATE	NAVY	ARMY	DISTRIBUTION
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~~Document~~. Confirmation of PIR loss of popular support is found in the fact that the party finished a poor third in the national elections of 1 May.

Jose Antonio Arze was re-elected to the Chamber of Deputies from the city of Cochabamba, but received the lowest number of votes of the four deputies elected from that city.

Based on later results, the PIR candidates elected are as follows:

Deputies

Jose Antonio Arze  
Ricardo Anaya  
Miguel Bonifaz  
Edmundo Roca Vaca Diaz  
Emilio Fernandez

Gerberto Fossati and Demetrio Gutierrez received sufficient votes to become alternates or suplentes in the House of Deputies.

Gerardo Sinani, self-avowed Communist, who was a deputy in the last Legislature, withdrew his name from the list of candidates for the deputyship from the Province of Sud Lipez in the Department of Potosi. Sinani alleged that the government had intervened in favor of the PUSR candidate and that his own movements had been restricted.

The total number of senators elected was 9, and of deputies 56. The government PUSR party was an easy winner with 6 senators, 37 deputies; the PIR was second with 1 senator, 10 deputies; and the PIR third.

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